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Western Normal Leader - October 30, 1912

Western Normal Leader Staff

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Western Normal Leader

Vol. 6

Hays, Kansas, Oct. 30, 1912

No. 4

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Real teachers are always in demand. This is especially true of manual training teachers. There have come to us three very insistent calls for Manual Training teachers since school opened. One was from Oklahoma City, one came from Pennsylvania, (through Clayton Bice) and a third wanted a dozen or more for Colorado.

City superintendents and principals are being forced by popular demand to install Manual Training and Domestic Science. Teachers are as conservative as any other class. They change their ideas of education slowly. They put their pupils through the same system they themselves went through. But public opinion is in advance of the teaching profession, and while some superintendents are ready to take up this work if they can find the teachers, others must be forced to it. Perhaps on this account it is wise that the supply is limited. But young men and women preparing to teach should look the future in the face and respond more liberally to this demand. Good positions are awaiting those who will prepare. At present it looks like

the Manual Training department would suffer a crop failure for 1913. Some few are now taking Manual Training. Some enter to make some articles of furniture for use, ornament, gift, etc. Some get into the classes to try themselves out. Some to investigate the subject. Some come in because it lays a foundation for mechanical work in other lines. But few enter to take all the manual training which W. K. S. N. offers, with a view of becoming special teachers. Why not? The demand is great. Qualify and occupy.

CLARENCE J. SMITH.

NOTES.

Mr. Wood reports conditions at Pittsburg the same as at Hays, in this respect, that too many neglect the chance to qualify to teach Manual Training. They take the certificate studies and get the manual electives and usually qualify by accident rather than by steadfast purpose to enter for all the manual training courses they can get.

A "snitch" is a poor lawyer who solicits practice. It is not considered professional for a doctor or lawyer to solicit. If a teacher of

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teachers points out the opportunity to those about him to fit into the demands of a complex social organization where the demand is great, is it a professional sin?

The manual training course is much strengthened this year by the addition of forge work. Blacksmithing about the farm, rather than the well developed machine shop is the kind offered at Hays.

The boys have made a flat top desk with a drawer, for the Normal. It is panel work of cypress and is chiefly made from scraps left over from last term.

Wooden frame work for the dish washing baskets have been made by the manual shop.

Claude Earl has made a good trombone case since entering.

Miss Morton and Miss Morgan are each doing an elaborate chip carved waste basket.

Miss Bovee has a music rack from last years' class-work put to service in the music room.

Howard Griffith has a hardwood arm-chair to his credit since the beginning of the term.

Mr. Smith has mounted a number of veneer samples for Mr. Beech.

The following letters have been received from those having had work under Mr. Smith in W. K. S. N:

KANSAS CITY, Kan., Oct. 5, 1912.

DEAR LEADER:

In a city of nearly one hundred thousand inhabitants the school system must be a well organized,

one. There are forty grade buildings in the city, twelve of these being suitably located, have been fitted up as Manual Training centres. A number of grade buildings near, send their boys to the centre where the Manual Training teacher is always ready to put them to work.

These boys meet the teacher once each week for an hour and a quarter. Now the twelve centres are divided between twelve teachers, four white and one colored—the races having separate schools.

The enrollment for my centres reaches the three hundred mark, just twenty less than can be accommodated at one week's recitation.

Someone has said that "society may be roughly classified into four groups: those who do without thinking; those who think without doing; those who neither think nor do; and those who think and do because of their thinking." The boys who come to me from the fifth to the eighth grades inclusive, are scattered through some one of these four groups, at one time or other during the three years I have had charge over them. Our Manual Training alone cannot do it, but in connection with the regular work of the school, it does make better students of them.

Every boy from the fifth to the eighth grades is required to take Manual Training as are the girls required to take sewing.

Each day for the Manual Training teacher, is divided into four periods, the first three for classes

and the last one for his own use, in which time he sharpens his tools and gets things in readiness for the next day. We do not permit the boys to set the planes or sharpen any of the tools as that is left for them to learn after they enter High school.

My time is equally divided between my two centres, i. e., two and one-half days to each place, transferring at the noon hour from one to the other.

Our course of study is given to the pupil in Blue Print when working out projects, twenty-two in number.

Very little is done with mechanical drawing in the grades because of lack of suitable rooms, and in our case it seems better for the pupil to study the blue prints in the grades as they are a greater help to him when in the High school and can get mechanical drawing under a special teacher with ample time to study it.

Three things determine the pupil's grade. First, accuracy—work is not considered accurate if it is over one-sixteenth of an inch from being square.

Second—Neatness. No work will be accepted that does not show the proper care from finishing, and scratches from pencil marks or finger prints are to be avoided by the pupil.

Third—Time. This, perhaps, is more important than the others, as it is essential for the boy to finish on time in order to have a clear

record when he enters High school. On every Blue Print is given the time in which the pupil is required to finish the project.

The most interesting feature of the whole system is the method used in handling the lumber. (My first requisition amounted to over six hundred feet.) Instead of ordering the lumber in board feet and in boards of various widths and lengths, order it by projects. The board of education have equipped a fine building with woodworking machinery and also have a large store room for supplies, and it is here that the lumber is sawed into convenient sizes for use. One man is employed by the board of education to get out this material and supply the teachers with the material. The lumber for the projects is cut out in lengths about an inch longer than the finished product will be, and a half inch wider than when finished, and there will be as many pieces in the rough as the project will have when finished. This method has proved to be a great saver not only of material but also of time, and the shop presents a much neater appearance where the rough lumber is piled neatly in lengths on shelves than it does when it is in racks and in boards of all sizes.

At the close of the year a complete report of all material used must be made out and must agree with a report of the same kind made out by the store keeper

from the requisitions which you have filed from time to time during the year.

There are three High schools, two for whites and one for colored students. The central High school had over one thousand students enrolled last year and they have one of the best equipped Manual Training shops in the country. Courses in bench work, turning, pattern making and forging and machine shop practice for the boys and domestic science and art and China decorating for girls.

With best regards I am

Cordially yours,

ALFRED HAVEMANN.

Snuggled down between the mountains of Pennsylvania comes a message from the Central State Normal School of Lock Haven, from our old friend Clayton Bice:

"I would have written sooner but have waited until we could get the Manual Training under way. No bench work was given last year, and we had trouble in arranging for the work at this time, partly due to the fact that they are changing from a three year course to a four year course. According to the new state law, freshmen must take at least 40 sixty-minute periods in Manual Training or Domestic Art, and the seniors must take the same.

At present I have a class of Normal students from 2:30 to 4:00 except on Friday. I have three classes of Model School students but give them only one lesson per week.

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G. A. LESTER, PROP.

Hays, - Kansas

The Western Normal Leader

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STAFF

Estelle Street, Editor-in-chief.

Charlotte Morton, Associate Editor.

Clarence King, Business Mgr.

C. A. Beeby, Ass't-Business Mgr.

The equipment I found here consisted of 10 single benches without the end vise, each fairly well equipped.

My other duties include taking charge of the study room and coaching the football squad.

This is a very beautiful location and I have enjoyed my work so far. Haven't tried climbing a mountain yet but took a walk of six miles this afternoon and decided I would never try farming in this country."

From James Johansen, Superior, Nebraska:

"I believe I am getting along fairly well, at least I am beginning to feel more satisfied with myself. I do not have as much work in Manual Training as I would like. I have enough boys (about a hundred) to work with, but we are limited to

bench work only, beginning with the sixth grade and including all up through the High school. I have ten double benches and fifteen sets of tools which requires some pairs of students to use a single set. I have no trouble in getting material. The school has a three year contract with a Wisconsin firm that sends the kind of lumber sawed to approximate dimensions for each exercise. This is known as the "National System." They send their course of study right along with the material. It is fairly good for the grades where much instruction is required, but I do not think I would recommend it for High school work. This is the last year of the contract.

I have only two periods per day in Manual training. Each class works two periods.

I have a year each of Chemistry, Physics and Botany.

The LEADER can see how Jim is kept out of mischief, and we wish he was twins as well as other good wishes.

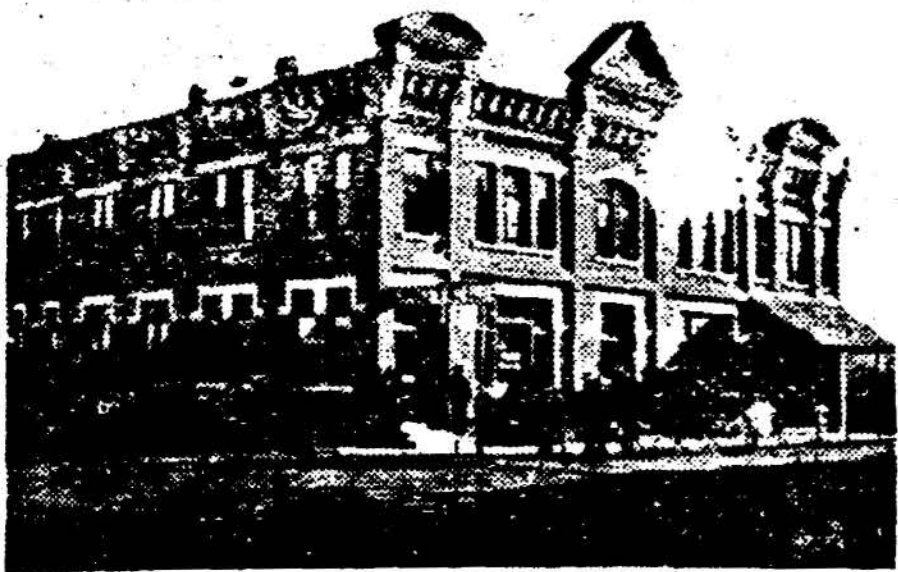
OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Sept. 28, '12.

"We are in the midst of the State Fair at present. No school yesterday as it was Education Day at the fair. School began on the 9th inst., but the Manual Training and Domestic Science is always a week late owing to a lack of schedule, and also organization.

I have enjoyed superb health this fall. Have gained nine pounds since my return. I have been asked to be Scout Master. A lot of fine fellows, these Boy Scouts.

Sincerely,

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FREDONIA, Kan., Oct. 13, 1912.

DEAR LEADER:

Everything in my department is from 75 to 100 per cent better than at this time last year. The first two months last year were taken up with mechanical drawing while we were waiting for equipment. This year we have a room about 30x50 feet, up stairs, windows in north and east and with electric lights. It is down town on the public square and about midway between the Ward and High schools. The boys are building a circular-saw-frame after a pattern of my own. I am wondering if it will be something like the flying machine that a certain Mr. Green once constructed.

The enrollment varies from 80 to 90. I have three classes each day from the grades and one from the High school. That gives each pupil a double period (80 minutes) with the exception of the Seventh grade. We have the 'vocational bug' in our bonnet, so of course everything must be practical. The advanced work is mostly furniture construction. Designs are sometimes taken from catalogue cuts. Very little upholstery as yet. The 9th A class is working on a set of benches similar to the ones we use. Will soon begin making tracings and blue

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prints.

I begin to see the results of some of last years labors. Some of the boys have been earning money by making porch swings, benches, etc., for their neighbors. One of them held down a job in a K. C. box factory.

Sincerely,

C. H. MORGAN.

Mr. Ed Davis, from Kearney, Neb., writes as follows:

"I am getting along fine with the woodwork and have 118 in

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my classes including ten girls. I have the High school students every day, and the Seventh and Eighth grade boys once a week for an hour and a half. When the grade boys first came to take the work they were very anxious to tell me how many years they had taken the work, and when I gave each one a piece to square up, and wrote out directions how to do it as well as showing them how, some of them would grab up a block plane and tear up the end the first thing. Some would begin on the edge and others would begin by sawing off the piece to length, marking with a lead pencil and leaving from an eighth to a quarter of an inch to block plane. I am getting them broken in now so they do as I tell them.

My benches are similar to the old single benches used at the Normal. I have two lathes, one for wood turning and one for metal work. Each one of the High school students gets a turn at the lathes about once in three weeks.

I also make outlines in Free Hand Drawing for 22 teachers in six different buildings to use with

the grade pupils. I visit each room once a week, and occasionally conduct the classes.

There is a military school located here a State Normal with an enrollment of about 1200 a year, and an industrial school. In the H. S. (picture enclosed) we have an enrollment of about 300.

From A. Picken, Morris, Ill., comes the following:

"I have the nicest place in the whole wide world. The school board have given me everything I have asked for, and some things I didn't have the nerve to ask for. I have a basement room 26x23 feet. Have had it finished in white, three coats; have six clusters of four each 40 C. P. Tungston burners, and another one over my saw, a light near my lumber rack, one in my large tool cabinet, two over the large general bench and two over the black board. I have locker room for 112 boys, and a lavatory, a 30 inch band saw with wire guards, ripping guage, and all imaginable conveniences, driven by a 3 h. p., 3-phase 60 cycle 220 volt motor. and now they are talking of giving me a motor driven emery and buffing wheel because they say the foot power one is too noisy. I have 100 grade boys who get one and a half hours per week, and I have a High school class of 12 boys every evening from 4 to 5, a class that I asked for in order to show what could be done with students of that grade working five hours a week.

Went to Chicago with a member of the board to buy a saw; got all the reference books I asked for, and all expenses paid."

Sufficient, and say our friend is happily situated and the LEADER wishes him the best success.

Normal School

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FOR PARTICULARS ADDRESS

Principal W. S. Picken

HAYS,

KANSAS

Lib Notes.

Several members of the Board of Regents and their wives were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Picken at the Club, Thursday.

Mr. Grant informed us that the favorite song while he was busy washing dishes seemed to be, "Put your arms around me honey."

Several ministers and laymen who were attending the Lutheran Synod in session at Hays, took their meals at the club.

We have excellent authority in saying that Mr. Archer very much resembles the Dean of the Chicago university.

Mrs. Harry Pratt and Miss Belle Davis, sisters of Geo. Davis of Studley, were here for a few days' visit with him. His brother Ray also visited him Sunday.

Fred and Roy Archer came over from Great Bend, on their motorcycles Sunday to visit their brother Ralph.

The chemical laboratory has lately been equipped with a "still" and a "hood." The hood is not the result of cold weather but a place in which to perform experiments where poisonous gasses are formed.

C. R. McCall and C. A. Beeby are out "stumping" their respective counties. McCall is running for county superintendent in Sherman county and Beeby in Graham.

Miss Ada Lankester is ill and in the hospital at present. No particulars have been learned but we hope she will soon be with us again.

Mr. Picken's speech last Wednesday, was delayed until some later time, because of the lights refusing to be 'lights' in the auditorium.

Laughing gas—a product formed by the union of Mr. Bird and the chemistry class.

Geo. Davis got a rib cracked and a muscle stretched longer than it should be in the High school and Catholic college foot-ball game, but he is still able to be about.

According to our mathematical star, Miss Nason, the quotient is the number by which another number is to be divided.

Mr. Van Cleave says instead of calling for a hair-cut when he goes to a barber shop, he asks for a shine.

Very sorry that the last issue was a Lit paper, but why do not the Lyceums get a reporter? Everyone may expect a Lyceum paper soon.

The Domestic Science department served a six o'clock dinner to the members of the Board of Regents, who were here and to the Faculty and their wives, last Thursday. Everything 'went off' splendidly.

Mr. Voran thinks it a lucky thing for Rousseau, an early educator, that he did not live in this day and age of Women's suffrage.

Terril and Davis, even after having been told that Soccer was at least once a ladies' game, have decided that it is not so much of a ladies' game after all.

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